

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification by replacing the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 19 and ending on page 13, line 2 with the following replacement paragraph:

If solids are then introduced into the reactor 1 via the solids conduit 9, a layer annularly surrounding the central tube 3, which is referred to as an annular fluidized bed 2, forms on the gas distributor 36. Both the reactor 1 and the central tube 3 may of course also have a cross section other than the preferred round cross section, as long as the annular fluidized bed 2 at least partly surrounds the central tube 3. Fluidizing gas introduced through the supply conduit 27, 37 flows through the gas distributor 36 and fluidizes the annular fluidized bed 2, so that a stationary fluidized bed is formed. The gas distributor ~~34~~ 36 is preferably formed for this purpose as a nozzle grating with a relatively large number of individual nozzles, which are connected to the supply conduits 27, 37. In a more simple embodiment, the gas distributor 36 may also be formed as a grating with a gas distributor chamber located under it. The velocity of the gases supplied to the reactor 1 is then adjusted such that the particle Froude number in the annular fluidized bed 2 is approximately 0.3.